

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 27, 2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Valerie Zuercher; Mark Rafanelli, and Robert Bollengier. Member Mary Walsh arrived at

7:04 p.m. Vice Chairperson; Teri Cicero arrived at 7:07 p.m. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley, and Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar were present. Student Member Katherine Matook was absent.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Chair DeSack read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum (15-minute limit) – None

Recognition/Achievements – Ratification Council-94 CBA – Chair DeSack and Superintendent Geismar recognized and welcomed members of the Council-94 negotiating team - Karen Briggs, Joanne

Kenyon, Cris Wall, Jimmy Franklin, and Maureen Abarr. Superintendent Geismar expressed how important Council-94 staff members are to the District.

Member Walsh arrived at this time, (7:04 p.m.).

Chair DeSack expressed that as a member of the negotiation team, she is appreciative for the manner in which negotiations were conducted and for the work that Council-94 members do for the District. Superintendent Geismar expressed his appreciation to Director of Administration Robert Ross for his work with Council-94 President Karen Briggs to resolve any issues that may arise. Chair DeSack invited everyone to take a brief refreshment break.

Vice Chair Cicero arrived at this time, (7:07 p.m.).

Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order at 7:14 p.m.

Presentation – Student Member Report – None

**Vice Chair Cicero made a motion to move [Consent Agenda – Personnel Item], the appointment of Lisa Flaherty up on the agenda. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher.
Voted 7 – 0 in favor.**

Superintendent Geismar introduced Ms. Flaherty to members. He said that Ms. Flaherty is middle level math certified and will teach at the junior high school for the remainder of the school year.

Member Bollengier made a motion to approve the appointment of Lisa Flaherty. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

The following pulled consent agenda item was approved.

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

- a. Lisa Flaherty as 1.0 FTE Junior High School math Teacher, Step 1; M; Annual Salary \$39,337; effective retroactive to January 20, 2009**

NECAP Science – Curriculum Director Nancy Daley and science teacher/department chair Matt Savoie gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting EWG and statewide Spring 2008 NECAP Science test results/data analysis for grades 4, 8, and 11. Ms. Daley explained the District's plan of action to better prepare students for future NECAP testing.

A general discussion developed and members' clarifying questions

were answered. In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry, Superintendent Geismar said that although it is fair to question the test itself, EWG educators are not saying that the NECAP test is a bad test. It is the District's job to prepare students to take the test. Principal Boulé said that many educators are reporting the same data to their School Committees and there have been questions if the test was a solid gauge. However, in all fairness to the State, this was the first science testing for grade 11. All released items and the GSEs will be reviewed. Principal Boulé summarized the proficiency system and graduation requirements. She said that students are required to be proficient in English Language Arts (ELA) and math by 2012. Science proficiency will come later. Principal Boulé gave an overview of the science department and their work. She said that EWG educators are comfortable that they will get students where they need to be. She then gave an example of how students have been moved up in the past to third highest in math testing on the NSRE, the state assessment prior to NECAP.

Vice Chair Cicero voiced concerns regarding instruction being directed in the interest of test scores. Mr. Savoie indicated that his department does not intend to take away from the existing core curriculum. Mr. Savoie advised that NECAP released items are available for viewing on the RIDE website. He recommended using the search engine Google as an easy means to view the NECAP released items.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 27, 2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA- Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Superintendent Geismar and Director of Special Education Carmella Farrar answered Member Bollengier's clarifying question regarding the District's obligation to educate a homebound maternity leave student.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of January 13, 2009; Joint Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2009

B. Personnel Items

2. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Pulled - (Item was reviewed and voted on earlier in the meeting.)

3. Leaves of Absence

4. Resignations

5. Grievances

6. Recalls

7. Non-Renewals

8. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$399,893.06

D. Home School Approvals

End Consent Agenda

Chair DeSack reviewed the Correspondence.

Correspondence – (1) Draft 2009 Education Stimulus Bill Estimated Allocations;

(2) January 2009 Wawaloam School Newsletter; (3) January 27, 2009 Memo from Superintendent Geismar to School Committee Regarding Winter Ball; (4) January 27, 2009 Memo from Superintendent Geismar to School Committee Regarding NECAP Results

Chair DeSack asked Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley to provide members with hardcopies of the NECAP Science presentation data that was presented this evening.

Clerk Coutcher left the meeting at this time, (8:30 p.m.).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies – Review and Adoption - #6202: Special Education Staffing Policy – Adoption – Member Bollengier made a motion to adopt

Policy #6202: Special Education Staffing Policy. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE – Superintendent Geismar gave members a brief capital project update which included recent energy survey results, recommendations to improve school efficiency and quality of ventilation, and existing roof issues at the senior high school and Wawaloam School.

Clerk Coutcher returned to the meeting at this time, (8:32 p.m.).

Dr. Geismar reported on the state of the finish of Metcalf's gymnasium floor and

L. Torrado Architects' "wish list" of shovel ready projects that can be submitted for possible federal stimulus funding. He brought members' attention to Correspondence (1), which indicates EWG will receive \$81,900. Referencing Dr. Geismar's request for a brief special meeting after the February 3, 2009 budget meeting to decide if the Committee wants to submit the proposal, Chair DeSack polled members to see if a special meeting is necessary. Member Rafanelli pointed out duplicated items within the document that need to be corrected. Dr. Geismar advised that, at his request, Mr. Torrado will add the rest of the track project to the list prior to the next meeting.

Member Bollengier made a motion to submit the proposal, with the corrections that were just mentioned. Seconded by Member Rafanelli. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Director of Administration Robert Ross confirmed that the January 28, 2009 Capital Project Building Committee meeting has been cancelled. Chair DeSack confirmed that there is a Budget Workshop and Special Meeting scheduled for February 3, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. The Executive Session item of the Special Meeting is to discuss possible administrative budget issues.

Member Rafanelli asked for clarification of protocol for bringing issues forward that are reported to him from community members. Chair DeSack advised Member Rafanelli to first bring those types of issues to Superintendent Geismar through e-mail.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Wednesday, January 28, 2009-Capital Bond Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, February 3, 2009-Budget Discussion (if needed); Tuesday, February 3, 2009-Executive Session Meeting; Tuesday, February 10, 2009-School Committee Meeting (Facilities Presentation); Friday, February 20, 2009-Notice to Canvasser; Tuesday, February 24, 2009-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, March 3, 2009-Joint Meeting; Wednesday, March 4, 2009-Budget Workshop; Tuesday, March 10, 2009-School Committee Meeting (Budget Adoption); Monday, March

23, 2009-Public Hearing; Tuesday, March 24, 2009-School Committee Meeting (Metcalf Presentation - @ Metcalf School)

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 27, 2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – 42-46-5 (a)(9) – CBA – Grievance(s) – None

ADJOURNMENT – Member Bollengier moved to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. Seconded by Member Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:42 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK